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The terrain covered by this reconnaissance lies midway between the Congo mouth and Tanganyika, the greatest attention having been devoted to the Sankuru affluent of the Kasai from Basongo at the point of union as far as Batempa at a point a few miles higher up the stream than Lusambo. Leaving the Sankuru at Bena Dibele, the expedition penetrated the forest to Kole on the Lukenie and followed that stream for some distance to Lodja. The Lukenie parallels the Sankuru and Kasai at some little interval to the north; finally it joins the Kasai system just before reaching the Congo. From Lodja a journey northward to Lokesu and beyond brought the party into yet another system, that of the Chuapa, which reaches the Congo at Equatorville. The story of the incidents of the march is well told, the author has observed with interested eyes the life of savage folk never before seen, he has succeeded most happily in presenting a pleasant record.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The Great Plateau of Northern Rhodesia. Being Some Impression of the Tanganyika Plateau. By Cullen Gouldsbury and Hubert Sheane. xxiii and 360 pp. Map, ill., index. Longmans, Green & Co., New York, 1911. \$4.50. 9½ x 6.

On this plateau, 4,000 to 6,000 feet above sea level, lying between 8° and 12° S. Lat., and 30° and 34° E. Long., live a number of tribes that have maintained their distinctive characteristics. This book has for its aim to depict the conditions of the country, and the manners and customs of the people, while they are still primitive—"before they fade and are forever obliterated by the corrosive contact of civilization." The discussion opens with the rites and customs of succession practiced by the most virile of the tribes, the aristocracy of the country, the followers of the Crocodile Kings, and then describes the native customs, especially in relation to justice, the formal festivals of birth, initiation, marriage and burial, and the social life of the villages.

Closely related to the main theme are discussions of the missionary movement in the district and of the future prospects of the territory. In the former, a well-balanced view of the status and work of the missionaries is presented, and the authors have moved safely along the middle road between carping criticism and over-zealous praise. Here, unlike many other places in Africa, Mohammedanism has not become the foe of the Christian missions, mostly because of the inaccessibility of the stations; but as time goes on, the encroachment of the religion of the North, which appeals curiously to the African native, will surely occur and the field of the struggle between Mohammedanism and Christianity will be enlarged.

In the final chapter, the authors summarize their views as to the possibilities of this distant land when it is made accessible by railroads. After this achievement, capitalists may be able to make the Nyassa-Tanganyika plateau a much valued corner of the Empire.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

The Geology and Geography of Northern Nigeria. By J. D. Falconer. xiv and 295 pp. Maps,* ill., index. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London, 1911. \$3.25. 9 x 5½.

These results of Dr. Falconer's work, while in charge of the Mineral Survey of Northern Nigeria, may well be considered as the nucleus of an eventually more detailed investigation of the Protectorate. Although the title implies that part of the book treats of the geography of the region, the chapter on which this designation is based deals solely with the surface forms and the hydrography of the district. In the main, the author has presented his subject in the form usually adopted by geologists. The minuteness with which he and his collaborators describe the topography of the region evinces both their painstaking care and an ample realization of the extreme importance of familiarity with surface conditions as a preliminary aid to subsequent geologic research. So many workers overlook this that its consideration still deserves a special mention of praise.

The same care appears to have been devoted to the microscopic determination of the crystalline rocks, the texture and structure of which are discussed in

* Listed under "Northern Nigeria," *Bull.*, Vol. 44, No. 4, April, 1912, p.317.